

holding State by inheritance, by her traditions, usages and laws, a border State between those now forbidding slavery and those retaining it; allied to *all* the States with equal sympathies, and by her various interests nothing can be indifferent to her people which tends to disturb their Union. To that Union she is indissolubly bound by every tie; by every interest in the present, by every association and memory of the past. Her people therefore have always refused to take part in the struggles for sectional power. Her voice has always been raised for peace and compromise, from the day of the first great settlement of this disturbance down to its unpardonable renewal, and the violation of the sacred compact, by which it was settled and silenced.

The people of Maryland have never listened to suggestions of disunion from southern States, and have denied all appeals to her sympathies from them, as steadily as they have refused all sectional association with States in the north, whose misguided councils have forgotten their allegiance to the Union, or attempted to deny the constitutional rights of their equals. The people of this State yet know of no grievance, for which disunion is a remedy, and they have always, in the words of Washington, discountenanced whatever might suggest even the slightest suspicion that Union can, *in any event*, be abandoned.

Her people will hearken to no suggestion inimical to the slaveholding States, for she herself is one of them. They will listen to no suggestion inimical to union with the non-slaveholding States, for she also has interests identical with theirs; and more than any other State, by reason of her position and the variety of her interests, is deeply concerned in the preservation of the Federal Union. Ever ready to defend by arms her own rights and liberties, from any aggression from within or without, she has not yet begun to consider the chances of disunion. Her people are content with the conviction, that however "designing men" may have taught the contrary, no right of any State, north or south, atlantic or western, has yet been infringed by the common Government of all. And the attempts of certain partizans to make them think otherwise, are by them looked upon as only "one of the expedients of party, to acquire influence within particular districts, by misrepresenting the opinions and views of other districts." They regard such alarmists as political adventurers, who live by subsidizing the fears, and enlisting the prejudices of a sectional party whose hopes they are the first to betray when they have gained place and power by the cheat.

Holding these views, the people of Maryland have always looked with pride on their share in the great compromises of 1820 and of 1850; and with very different feelings, on the flagrant violation of those compromises, and their destruction by "designing men," in 1854. The name of one of Maryland's ablest sons is forever associated with the Missouri